

THE KAPPA ALPHA THETA,

Published by the Fraternity. Edited by Iota Chapter.

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The Federation of Women's Clubs.

I know not if the movement for Women's Clubs could well be considered an unmixed good. Certainly, it has proved itself quite able to endure unlimited abuse, and to be carried to such lengths as might almost induce, even its friends, to look upon it with a caution born of reason and judgment. In truth, it had its origin away back in the time of Emma Willard and Mary Lyon. The story is an old one, but always interesting; how they toiled and struggled that their sisters and those women who should follow them, could have to some slight degree, the opportunity to satisfy their thirst for knowledge. They builded better than they knew, as testify Wellesley, Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Barnard, Sage, and many others. The little leaven widened. From the sturdy pioneers of the higher education for women to the present day of unlimited attainment, is a mighty stride. In point of years it is barely half a century's span. We of our own time take, unthinking, the gifts the gods provide us, recking not at all, or very little, of the toil, the struggle, the far-seeing wisdom, the keen insight, which made it possible to give to our daughters that best of all gifts, a well-trained and carefully disciplined mind.

And yet the Woman's Club was not. And strange to say, the colleges and universities with their classical courses and mathematical discipline were not the leaders in this movement. Those who could drink their fill of the higher

education were, in most cases, satisfied, and felt no necessity for any thing better and higher. But there were women, hundreds and thousands of them, who were living out their lives with little opportunity for culture ; who had found no chance for mental discipline, who were trying to be satisfied with the daily performance of their duties of wife, mother, and home-maker ; and yet, imbued with the spirit of the times, dared to reach out and take for themselves the forbidden fruit, and show that not alone to their more fortunate sisters was given the love for study, the intense longing and thirst for knowledge which must be satisfied and which would find a way. So it is, we must look to the rank and file, and not to the fortunate few for the origin of the Woman's Club.

Early in the century, a few of Philadelphia's gentle sisters, pledged to kind deeds toward those less fortunate, and trying to make less heavy the hand of poverty and sorrow, banded themselves together for philanthropic labors. A league still living and the pioneer of many others formed for similar purposes. This I think, was the first organization of women which might be termed a club, and they did not venture to so call themselves. I find that many of the federated societies have practically the same history. They have started by the meeting together of a few women for purposes of social intercourse and mutual improvement, At first, perhaps, with little or no organization, but later, as interest grew and confidence increased, they have evolved a constitution and a carefully chosen course of study. It is indeed wonderful the progress which has been made in so short a time. The movement has grown and increased out of all knowledge of those beginners, and as yet, there seems to be no abatement of its progress.

However, in large cities, the much "clubbed" woman might well pause and consider if the belonging to so many organizations might not tend to dissipate the mental powers, to induce a superficial knowledge and culture, not at all to be desired, and which might bring in their train a company

of evils as yet hardly considered. It has made possible, however, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which has in its ranks all the state organizations, of which there are almost as many as the Union has parts, besides the individual clubs all over the country; and each state federation has for its own, all the clubs, big or little, of city or country which may choose to come together and, in its ranks, in hearty fellowship, coöperate not only for their own advancement, but also for the general good of the state.

Perhaps my Kappa Alpha Theta sisters will be interested in a few words concerning the New York State Federation. We are glad to claim as our own, the "mother" of the so-called women's clubs, Sorosis, of New York city, which will soon celebrate its thirtieth anniversary, and whose presidents have been Alice Cary, Jennie June, Jennie de la M. Lozier, Mrs. Fannie I. Helmuth, and other women whose names are synonyms for progressive thought and earnest endeavor to help their sister women. In eighteen hundred seventy-three, at a call sent out by Sorosis, the representative women of America met in New York city and organized the "Association for the Advancement of Women," with Mary A. Livermore as its first president.

It was at the earnest invitation, too, of this Mother of Clubs, that a second meeting was held in eighteen hundred eighty-nine, upon Mrs. Livermore's twenty-first anniversary. To this came delegates from all the distinctively women's organizations of the country for the purpose of forming themselves into a federation. The result of this meeting was the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which meets biennially, this year in June, at Denver.

From Sorosis again came the call to the clubs of the state, to meet in New York city and form a federation which should "include any organization; literary, educational, scientific, professional, industrial, reformatory, philanthropic, political, municipal, and village improvement, whose constitution should prove it to be free from sectarian and political bias, and should express a spirit of progress." The time was

ripe, and between fifty and sixty responded to the call and were enrolled as charter members. At the first annual meeting, held in Brooklyn, November, eighteen hundred ninety-five, the membership consisted of eighty-three clubs, and Mrs. Jennie C. Croly was again elected president. The report of the Buffalo Congress, held in eighteen hundred ninety-six, shows an increase in numbers of sixty-two. At this time Mrs. Helen B. Montgomery was elected to the presidency, but was prevented from carrying out her ably formed plans for the good of the Federation, by reason of very serious illness. In November, eighteen hundred ninety-seven, the membership had grown to one hundred eighty-nine, and the individual membership was very close to twenty-five thousand. The larger number of the clubs comes from New York city and from Brooklyn, but the state is fairly represented, and it has been the endeavor always to bring in the country clubs, as they are the ones who most need to feel the helpfulness of coöperation, of getting away, and seeing beyond their, perhaps, in many cases, somewhat restricted horizons, and to learn and know, also to follow and to do, as well as their opportunities permit, what their sisters in the great centers have found possible and are contemplating.

It is an inspiration to many a little village improvement society to meet with and listen to Mesdames Trautman and Scrimgeour, and to know what the two Women's Health Protective Associations of New York and Brooklyn have done to abate and lessen the public nuisances of those two cities.

Then there are the educational clubs formed mostly of college and school alumnae, who everywhere are seeking to advance the cause of the higher education and development of women. The philanthropic and professional clubs, whose name is legion, household economic clubs, civics, working girls' societies, the educational and industrial unions, ethical clubs, clubs organized for the study of everything, from child-nature to art, science, literature, village improvement and political affairs. I have even heard of "Don't Worry"

clubs, but believe they have not as yet been federated. They all, to a greater or less degree, study parliamentary law and apply it as far as is practicable.

There is a bureau of Educational Correspondence which will furnish to any club outlines of study in almost any desired direction. The Reciprocity Bureau, too, gives whatever is best and most significant of each of its members to all the others, and is a most helpful and necessary feature.

New York with other Federations is working along educational lines, and is seeking through the mothers of the children to find out and correct abuses existing in our present system of public schools. In every way the coöperation of teachers and parents is encouraged, that all imperfections may be eliminated and the best possible conditions for good work be established.

This work along educational lines was a suggestion made by the General Federation a little more than two years ago, and has borne astonishing fruit even in this short time. It has been taken up by all the State Federations and has resulted in active systematic work in the legislatures and in the establishment of kindergartens and institutions for the care of the dependant and needy children of the State.

There is much "fuss and feathers" so far about it all. The "New Women" who are said to compose the various memberships have much to learn; of patience, of self-control, of adjustment of their own to other diverse opinions, of self-expression, also, alas! of self-effacement. They do learn to give again for the benefit of others what they have found helpful to themselves, to formulate their ideas, to write them clearly and gracefully, to read them audibly, perhaps to express them extemporaneously.

In almost every case the Women's Club, wherever it is found in city or in country, because of its high standards, its capacity for hard work, its native strength to do and venture, its keen appreciation of present day problems, stands for all that is best and highest in the community. It is a factor not to be thrust aside nor gainsaid, but to be consid-

ered as one of the social forces which our civilization has evolved and which, give it time, will prove a fitting tribute to the noble women whose labors first made it possible.

LILLIAN MARSH TANNER, *Iota*.

Establishment of Alumnae Chapters.

Now that our fraternity is becoming somewhat advanced in years, the subject of the establishment of Alumnae Chapters should take an important place among us.

We now have six alumnae chapters and there are rumors of another being started in Philadelphia. This certainly is most promising, and proves, beyond a doubt, that the feelings of the older girls are just as warm for Theta as the most loyal Freshman.

Those of you who still enjoy the privilege of being members of an active chapter perhaps do not realize quite what it means when you have college, and all the dear associations connected with it, dearest of all the love and encouragement which the Theta sisters have given you. Then if you can join an alumnae chapter, how delightful it is!

I think I never understood the true meaning of fraternity until I became a member of our alumnae chapter. In our own Alpha Beta there was the love and sweet friendship which always characterizes Theta, but we were girls then, learning slowly, but I feel sure steadily to reach our ideal of womanhood. In the alumnae chapter the girls have become women, women whose lives are passed under widely different circumstances, and who have received instruction at different colleges and universities. But that bond of Theta love is so close, and the feeling that we are all one is so strong, that our meetings are a continual source of enjoyment and helpfulness to all. There it is that we feel the true largeness of our fraternity, the fact that it as a whole should come first, and that we cannot afford to lose the fraternity when we have to part from the chapter.

No matter how loyal we try to be, in spite of all our fine resolutions to the contrary, we cannot keep up to the standard of intelligent fraternity women when we never come in contact with each other. We slowly and almost imperceptibly drift farther and farther apart.

Please do not let me be misunderstood. I would not under-rate or place in the background for a single moment, our chapter life, so full of tender memories as it is, but we should keep in mind the idea that the chapters are only a part, links in the golden chain, and that the clasp which holds all and which we want to make strong is Kappa Alpha Theta.

The kind of work to be done in the alumnae chapter, whether literary, philanthropic or social, should of course be decided upon by the members, but the meeting together, and the common interest would do much toward keeping our hearts warm and loyal.

If the alumnae chapter should be situated near an active one, as is very often the case, the amount of good the older sisters could do would be very great. We have none of us been out of college so long but that we can remember times when we longed for the council of some of the older girls, and wondered what they would advise if we could hear from them. We know there are people in the outside world who are bitterly opposed to all kinds of secret societies, and who are always trying to find the weak points in them. It would certainly be strongly in our favor if we could prove to them that our organization appealed not only to the young girl when in college, but to the mature woman. Whether she be married and have a home of her own filled with new duties and responsibilities, or interested in philanthropic work, or a literary woman, the alumnae chapter should still be able to arrange its work and meetings so as to take in all of these. The work should not be arduous. Indeed it is a question with some whether any formal method of work should be pursued, as most of the members would probably be busy women who would enjoy the meetings more if they

found there a restful, social, cosy time. But, as I said before, all the details could, and of course should be decided upon by the members themselves.

I know of one alumnae chapter where really advanced literary work is done, and very much enjoyed. After all the main thing is for us not to allow our young enthusiasm for Theta and her principles to grow cold, and to be glad and ready to do anything we can to strengthen and increase her power for good.

MARY W. TITUS, *Gamma Alumnae*.

A Few Words upon the Association of Collegiate Alumnae.

Detroit is a convention city. Centrally and beautifully situated as it is, it naturally suggests itself as a point of meeting for associations of all kinds. Among the sixty or seventy conventions held here during the last year, no other was of so much interest to the college-bred woman as the annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, which took place during the last days of October. Even were we not college graduates, we should be interested in the coming together of such women as Miss Marion Talbot, Dean of the Woman's College, Chicago University, Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, Miss Kate Halladay Claghorn, well known from her article in the *Outlook* upon College Training for Women, Mrs. Annie Howes Baras, Mrs. Bessie Bradwell Helmer, and our own Mary Roberts Smith, treasurer of the Association, who, however, was not present at the convention.

Two days were spent in Detroit and one in Ann Arbor, the local branch being divided between these two places, and Ann Arbor being naturally a place of attraction to the guests. A great deal of business was transacted under the able leadership of the president, Miss Talbot, but I can only touch upon this. Among the notable papers read were the

address of the President, the reports of committees upon fellowships, endowment of colleges, child-study, a national university, educational progress; addresses upon "Some Experiments in the Dieting of School Children," by Miss Wentworth of Boston; "The Problem of Occupations," by Miss Claghorn; "Thought Life, a Developmental Force," by Dr. Eliza Mosher; and an account of the work of the alumnae of Michigan University, by Mrs. Eliza Sunderland. It will be of interest to those who are agitating the advisability of a travelling district or general officer in the fraternity to know that the Convention of Collegiate Alumnae decided upon the appointment of a travelling salaried secretary whose duties are much the same as the duties of such an officer would be in the fraternity, and whose existence, it is thought, will bring about a closer co-ordination for the general association, and inspiration to the separate branches.

Between the sessions, the guests drove about the city, accepted many hospitalities and came together with the members of the Detroit branch at a most delightful banquet, which was followed by a reception to the prominent citizens. In Ann Arbor, after the business meeting of the morning and the luncheon, a reception was held in honor of the delegates by the Women's League of the University. Later, the local chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta had the unusual pleasure of entertaining many of these distinguished women at afternoon tea. Among the guests were three alumnae of other chapters of the fraternity, whom Eta was especially glad to welcome. It was a great disappointment to us that we were not able to meet Mrs. Mary Roberts Smith, to whose coming we had long been looking forward.

Many who read this article are well acquainted with the history and work of the association in whose interests these women came together in Detroit, but to those who are not, I should like to say a few words.

The Association is not very old—of course it could not be, for it was not very many years ago that there were no

women graduates of universities. The impulse came from a few college women of Boston, representing eight eastern colleges, who in 1881 banded themselves together into an association which should be of benefit to themselves and to others. The next year the same motives drew together a little western group, centering in Chicago. It is worth noting that it was by the western branch that the establishment of fellowships was begun, and when the two sections were united, this became the most important and successful phase of work in the new association. The number of institutions from which alumnae may be admitted to membership has advanced from eight to eighteen, including the four added at the last convention: Boston University, Bryn Mawr, University of California, Cornell, Kansas, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Michigan, Oberlin, Smith, Syracuse, Vassar, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Wisconsin, Radcliffe, University of Chicago, Minnesota and Leland Stanford, Jr. The membership in individuals has grown from the seventeen who met in the rooms of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1881 to two thousand, and the association is made up of twenty branches.

The aim of the association is and always has been practical educational work. This, of course, leads into many branching lines. As has been said, the chief work of the general body has been the establishment of fellowships for women at home and abroad. With this work is inseparably connected the name of Mrs. Bessie Bradwell Helmer, who in her report at the convention gave some most interesting statistics. She stated that the holders of association fellowships has been thirty-eight in number; the graduate work has been done in twenty-four institutions; thirteen of the thirty-eight have taken Ph.D. degrees; one has a certificate from Oxford as to research work, and one has done the work for Ph.D. at Harvard. A holder of an association fellowship was the first woman to receive the Ph.D. degree from Yale; another was the first woman admitted to Göttingen; a third the first woman to receive her Ph.D. from Göttingen.

These are by no means all of the distinctions gained by women who have been enabled to pursue their study by the assistance of the Collegiate Alumnae Association. The general body has also undertaken scientific investigation into the professions and occupations suitable for college women ; has established a bureau of college information ; has compiled a most complete bibliography of literature pertaining to the higher education of women ; and has formed an alliance with certain foreign associations and institutions which bring many advantages to the members of the association.

Besides this work of the association as a whole to which the various branches contribute, the branches themselves may follow any line of work which is in harmony with the aim of the general body. For instance, the Boston branch has of late become very much interested in the problem of city sanitation and has accomplished something in the betterment of conditions. Moreover, individual members everywhere are establishing as an incontrovertible fact that the college-bred woman, the woman of trained faculties, who can reason as well as feel, is the woman who is best able to make herself a force for good in the world.

Such briefly are the origin, growth, and work of the association. The last needs no justification ; the former prove that such an aim finds a response in the hearts of college-bred women of the country.

My purpose in presenting this matter has not been merely one of exposition. I have had in mind especially those in the various chapters of our fraternity who are soon to become graduates and eligible to membership in the Collegiate Alumnae Association, which is itself a great fraternity, substituting a wide scope of influence for intensive power, helpfulness to the world for self-development. If the association had no more serious aim than the banding together for mutual benefit and pleasure women whose training and habit of thought have made them congenial, it would be a privilege to become one of the number. But it has a nobler object in view ; it aims to put to practical use those faculties developed

by the college experience. The individual members, the several branches, the general association demonstrate to the world every day the right of women to that higher education which was so long bestowed upon her brother but denied to her. In the lines along which the association works, one cannot do much by one's self, but uniting one effort with those of many others we learn what organization can do. Next fall, may there be many alumnae of Kappa Alpha Theta enrolled among the Collegiate Alumnae, either by membership in the branches or direct connection with the general association, should there be no branch conveniently near. To all who believe in the ideal of our fraternity in its whole significance, the object of the Collegiate Alumnae Association will appeal.

MYRA MCPHERSON POST, *Eta*.

An Ideal College Life.

Pope says :—

“ A little learning is a dangerous thing,
Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring.”

In these days when a college education is within the reach of almost all young people, there seems to be little excuse for any one who is satisfied with graduation from a high school. But many people consider it unnecessary to go through college, unless one is to enter some profession. This may be one reason why the number of young women in the colleges and universities is comparatively small. But it is gradually coming about that this idea does not hold the prominent place it once did, for the fathers and mothers are beginning to feel that, if for no other object than the attainment of good citizenship, their sons and daughters ought to have the highest possible education.

College life should be considered, not as a perpetual grind, but as one of the most joyous periods of one's life. It is a time when one has little or no responsibility and is really getting ready to live. How often do we hear older people

say that the friendships formed while in college are more lasting than any others ever made ! If this be true each one should improve every opportunity to make friends, and where is there such an advantage offered as in the fraternity ?

People, who do not thoroughly understand fraternity life, sometimes think that its influence tends to make the members narrow-minded and rather too conservative. But the arguments really seem to be stronger on the other side. For if it does, perhaps, lead to exclusiveness in the particular college where the chapter is situated, does it not furnish a common bond between the different chapters and even between different fraternities ? How much more we know about a college where there is a chapter of our own fraternity, than we do of one that is not thus blessed.

Again, the fraternity offers many social advantages not to be found elsewhere. The wisest man who ever lived said there is a time for all things, and certainly during the years spent in college there is time for other things as well as study. Often an overly-ambitious person thinks he has no time for anything but his work, and the consequences are he graduates from college with his health broken down and his prospects in life shattered.

We all remember the old adage, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and surely this applies in the case of Gill also. So it seems that an ideal college life is one in which moderation is used in both work and pleasure, work always being first ; and where the chief aim is the upbuilding of character and the attainment of the broadest culture.

S. W. V., *Mu.*

The Song Book.

The Chapter on Song Book reports progress. It must be borne in mind that almost no songs came in before February, and that the work of revising music and words for the inspection of the Grand Council is a task of no small proportion.

The workers are busy college girls with very little time at their disposal. After the songs have passed the Council, there is the printer's work, the proof-reading and correcting, before it goes finally to press.

Thoughtfulness on the part of writers would have saved much work for the committee. Every song will bear the writer's name, chapter and class. Several accepted songs have no name attached and this necessitates extensive correspondence. We must get permission to use every bit of music not original.

We shall reprint all the good songs in the old book and these are largely nameless as to authorships.

One chapter sending a song said: "We did not sign our names to the songs because we are not proud of them." The committee at once felt quite hopeless concerning that collection.

One hundred and fifteen songs have been received. Three chapters have failed to respond. Forty-five songs have been accepted, and ten more at least will be selected from the remainder.

The committee ought to receive ten more good songs at once.

No songs have come from the alumnae chapters. Sisters, this ought not so to be. A few of the alumnae have sent songs through their active chapters.

Some very good songs have been received and some remarkably interesting ones.

It was thought best not to accept chapter songs except in one case where it could easily be adapted to other chapter names.

Chi rejoices in a very efficient music committee who are giving to this work conscientious service.

JENNIE M. BINGHAM, *Chi*.

A Question of Priority.

Readers of the *Journal* are not unfamiliar with the recent question of the comparative antiquity of the Pi Beta Phi and Kappa Alpha Theta fraternities. Not a little has been said and written in the attempt to answer the question, but that the attempt has not been successful is shown by the article entitled "College Fraternities for Women" in the *Harper's Bazar* of October second, copied in the January *Key*. The writer says: "Pi Beta Phi is really the oldest but Kappa Alpha Theta, formed at De Pauw in the spring of 1870, claims to be first because Pi Beta Phi was only a local college society for several years under the name of I. C. Sorosis."

Kappa Alpha Thetas are moved by no desire to put forward an arbitrary claim and to have that claim recognized at any cost. Yet they would have their position understood and correctly stated, when stated at all.

The "claim" of Kappa Alpha Theta which has been challenged, is that it is the oldest women's Greek-letter fraternity. Kappa Alpha Theta does not claim to be the oldest women's society, nor yet the oldest college women's society. It does, however, claim to be the oldest women's Greek-letter fraternity organized on the principles of the then-existing men's Greek-letter fraternities. No one disputes the fact that the society which afterwards became the Pi Beta Phi fraternity was founded three years before Kappa Alpha Theta was established. Probably, also, no one would dispute the fact that however successful the "I. C. Sorosis" may have been as a society, it was not a fraternity in the accepted sense of the word. Its membership was not even confined to college students. According to Mr. W. R. Baird in *American College Fraternities*, "associate chapters of I. C. Sorosis were established in towns where no colleges were located, but where members could be obtained possessing the same educational attainments as those possessed by members of the collegiate chapters," and this practice was not discontinued until 1884. It is obvious that in its early stages—

certainly in 1870 when Kappa Alpha Theta was founded—Pi Beta Phi differed essentially from Greek-letter fraternities ; and since it differed from them so essentially, it ought not to be compared with them in reference to age. There are in most fraternities some chapters which existed as societies before their admittance to the fraternity ; but as chapters of the fraternity they date strictly from the time when they were admitted to the fraternity. And a fraternity, in our opinion, dates from the time when it adopted methods and organization similar to those of existing fraternities, to say nothing of a Greek name.

President's Letter.

The rushing season is past and each chapter, like an amoeba, closes in around the new members and makes them part of itself. Whatever have been the vicissitudes of the fall, there is a tendency to be well satisfied with the results. Each band of sisters, adjusted now for the year, stands hand in hand, happy and ready for work. Does the responsibility of this happiness appeal to us all? Or are we as selfish as happy people are reported to be? If ever any one should consider the words "noblesse oblige" the fraternity girl should. It is safe to presume that the college girl comes from an enlightened, comfortable home ; it is certain that she has advantages of higher education afforded still to a small percentage of her sex. To these blessings is now added another : she is called to the companionship of a picked set of earnest, womanly, high-minded fellow students. She is right in thinking that her lines have fallen in pleasant places.

The uninitiated will always far exceed in number the initiated, and if fraternities exist simply for the betterment of the few they have no excuse for being. But fraternities are rooted in the thought that has appealed to all ages,—that in unity there is strength. We are united because we are

stronger united than separate, and stronger first of all for our work among women. That work should begin in college days among those who are termed the "barbarians." I am always sorry to hear this class slightly spoken of. It is not always the strongest who is the most pleasing to a company of people, and among these non-fraternity girls are sometimes found the rarest characters. Remember that the ancient Greeks called the Teutons "barbarians," and those Teutons are now the rulers of the world. A girl may not have the attributes of a fraternity member, but she can often be a helpful, perhaps an inspiring friend, and more than that, she needs the association with her fellow students. If we could keep the idea before us that because we are fraternity women we should be the kinder to all women, fraternities could not be condemned by many philanthropists and educators as a harmful institution.

You may think I have nothing to say that I have time to preach, but it is in my heart to say this, and I hope that you will not take it amiss that I have voiced what I know most of us consider a fraternity obligation. We cannot remind each other too often of our ideals.

The work of the Grand Council lately has not been of a public nature. We have, however, the pleasure of calling your attention to the establishment of Eta Alumnae at Burlington, Vermont. The establishment of alumnae chapters is one of the several signs of progress, and we welcome each one gladly.

CAROLINE SARGENT WALTER.

Letter from the President of Beta District.

Dear Sisters in Kappa Alpha Theta :

Beta District as a whole has kept very quiet, but we have not been entirely dormant since convention. Such a meeting gives much food for after reflection and sets in motion many ideas that may be realized in action. Our district

meeting in Madison was very brief, but it was long enough to make evident that most of the chapters felt the need of a closer acquaintance with one another. The two means proposed were the district convention and the traveling president. The skeleton of expense stands in the way as always, but in the face of a great need, even that may become insignificant. At present we are trying to arrive at some conclusion as to what is the "best investment."

The comparative desirability of these two means has already been presented in these pages. If we could find the ideal traveling district president, she would undoubtedly do a great deal for the chapters; if she were only an ordinary mortal, she might derive some benefit and pleasure from the experience herself, but there would be little profit to the chapters. The difficulty is to find some one fitted by nature and circumstances to fill the position. On the other hand, a convention is an irksome and expensive undertaking, and the burden almost necessarily falls upon a few more heavily than upon the others. However, we hope before long to evolve some satisfactory plan.

As a last word, I cannot refrain from saying, from the point of view of one who has been out of college for two years or so, that the sister from Kappa struck a responsive chord when she pleaded for originality and literary tone in the chapter letters. *Anything* (and always the same thing) said *anyhow* will not do for what stands to the other chapters and to the world as expressive of the caliber of the chapter. Professor Palmer's little book, "Self-Cultivation in English," would not be out of place in the library of the chapter.

Cordially in Theta.

MYRA M. POST.

ALUMNAE DEPARTMENT.

A Rose.

'Tis only a rose you dropped on the stair
As gracefully downward you swept, unaware
Of your loss and my gain—
The glimpse of a face surpassingly fair,
The ghost of a perfume still haunting the air—
In my heart a vague pain.

This meeting the first—I fear 'tis the last ;
How could you this witching spell over me cast ?
By what magic power ?
'Tis stronger than memory weaves from the past
As idly I stand here my hand holding fast
This lost crimson flower.

Ah, petals of carmine, say, why should I care ?
What though in her face was loveliness rare,
And grace in her pose ?
To love her so soon no wise heart would dare ;
Enough that I have of her presence this share—
A sweet fallen rose.

A. B. C., *Iota*.

Beta Alumnae.

It has always seemed to me that a successful corresponding secretary must, like the poet, be "born, not made." Certain it is that the manufactured product in that line is a very poor apology for the genuine article, and I am sure that all who have experienced the sensation will agree with me that the process of manufacture is not altogether soothing.

Sometimes when I read some of these "very, very good" letters, I think to myself: "Why,—oh, why can't I write like that? And since I can't, why was I ever elected corresponding secretary of Beta Alumnae?" But somehow I can never find a satisfactory answer to the question, so I continue to write "horrid" letters, and hope that some day I shall be inspired to do better.

The article in the January *Journal* (on chapter letters) was certainly very much to the point, and "C. G. L." is, undoubtedly, right in all she says, but how does she expect us poor mortals, who write the aforesaid letters, to be original and characteristic in telling what we know? If we had characteristic things to tell about, now, it might perhaps be done, but it does sometimes seem as if there really is "nothing new under the sun"—not even new girls—in these days when we are no longer in college.

But, though material for an interesting letter seems to be conspicuously lacking, it must not be thought that Beta is entirely idle. Since last we were heard from we have had two very delightful meetings, which I am sure every one enjoyed exceedingly. We always meet quite informally; we go early and stay late and talk hard all the time, and on the last two occasions the local chapter has met with us, which has made it unusually pleasant.

The time has come to close this rather rambling attempt, and I trust that, if "C. G. L." chances to see it, she will be as lenient in her judgment as her conscience will permit, bearing in mind that Beta's secretary was not "born so."

MARY ADAMS VAN CLEVE.

UNDERGRADUATE DEPARTMENT.

The "Protest" against literary meetings in the last *Journal* brings up a question which probably appeals strongly to most fraternity girls. Perhaps it appeals to them especially strongly after the novelty of chapter life and the enthusiasm for vigorous self-improvement have worn off just a little. And we certainly do look forward to the weekly fraternity meeting as a time for "having a good time with our sisters." But, on the other hand, does this series of meetings, held professedly for the sole purpose of having a good time, for discussing chapter and fraternity affairs, and for planning for social events, constitute an ideal fraternity life?

Literary Fraternity
Meetings.

We should not like to say to the new girls whom we ask to share with us all that we hold most sacred in college and fraternity life: "Kappa Alpha Theta is a grand fraternity; it is the oldest, and one of the strongest of all the women's Greek letter societies. Our meetings are so helpful; we meet every week, and do just nothing but have a good time!" The opposition that fraternities in general are still meeting in many institutions seems to show that such an organization needs to prove its right to exist by the dignity and earnestness of its aims; for, though our fraternity is for ourselves, and not for outsiders, still, we cannot well afford to be wholly indifferent to criticism.

How everything outside the pale of purely social meetings suffers from being classed in the category of "literary meeting"—a term which has come to be suggestive of all that is prosaic and tedious! Some one ought to invent a name which might apply to these meetings at which we do something that is really worth doing that would not bear this stigma. And even if the meetings were purely literary,

many of us who, after our first years in college, drop our literary work for scientific studies, do not find these meetings so very unendurable; and, as for new members, a little solid work is apt to have a wholesome effect upon them. We would not have the "literary program" any more uninteresting than is absolutely necessary, nor would we have all the meetings literary. Far be it from any Theta girl to undervalue the benefit derived from our fraternity social life; but, whether we discuss social events, literature, current news or politics, let us remember that it is not a mere accident that, in the true Kappa Alpha Theta ideal, the "intellectual" and "moral" are placed before the "social."

A. E. P., *Alpha Epsilon*.

We are aware that many of our chapters will immediately shake their heads and say "Purely literary articles have no place in our *Journal*." Yet, sisters, even in the face of your disapproval we persist in advocating the introduction of such articles.

We recognize that the first and most important duty of the *Journal* is to the fraternity; yet let us not
Purely Literary Articles. be narrow and conventional to the exclusion
of that which would afford not only enjoyment but, we trust, helpfulness.

Our *Journal* is the herald which announces to the outside world what we choose to have them know of our aims and purposes, our aspirations and ideas. We, in a large measure, are judged by this herald. If it be not in every way the fair representative of our true worth our dear fraternity must suffer.

Literary articles would make our *Journal* more attractive and interesting, not only to the critical world, but also to Theta readers. Our *Journal* must furnish us with the fraternity news and all matters of interest in connection with college life and pursuits. Yet these are transient and serve only to keep us in touch with one another's life at the present,

while a good story, a pretty poem, or an instructive essay, is a source of continued pleasure.

Many of our girls possess the talent of writing good literary productions and would receive great help from the recognition by the *Journal* of these efforts. They would feel that it was the hand of a loving sister, directing and encouraging their efforts and urging them on to greater literary victories. The mere fact that Theta needs their efforts would be an inspiration to them, and, with Theta for their muse, would the result not be praiseworthy?

I have often wondered if we younger chapters, who are still through some lingering charter member in touch with the first anxious beginnings, sufficiently to realize how valuable our knowledge would be to those that come after. Are we careful to keep the interesting story in tangible form. Of course records are carefully kept, but all those little things that are the romance of history, that are the true motive forces, are too often left for tradition to preserve. Yet tradition may grow dim with age, while the intrinsic value of its knowledge increases. The chapter has few freshmen that will not enjoy talking over the fraternity pictures of past years with some older member. Would not the individual pictures, with an autograph signature, and some characteristic quotation added by a sister, be also enjoyable. Pictures are not easy to preserve in convenient form; yet a scrap-book arrangement grouping the college classes in order, or with the pictures arranged by date of initiation would permit the safe keeping of many faces. Then let us have another scrap-book for invitations, programmes, and kindred documents. Here we may keep only things of chapter significance, or also those of college affairs of interest to the chapter. A chapter diary where could be found an interesting record of the chapter's social activities, of initiations, of special meetings where wisdom and fun joined in some unique escapade, of all those happenings we our-

Chapter History.

selves treasure in fraternity reminiscences. Are not these and many other means of storing up chapter riches worthy our attention?

Can this chapter financially afford to take in this girl who will never live in the chapter house?

Can this fraternity conscientiously afford to have a chapter where such a question arises in choosing members? Are the burdens of maintaining a house such that they must affect the policy of a chapter? If so, are the pleasures and advantages of a chapter house sufficient to give it unrestricted approval?

Chapter House Question.

Such questions seriously confront chapters that are planning to acquire a house of their own. The misgivings have been strengthened by observation of some fraternities with newly acquired homes. There are chapters dwelling in beautiful, luxurious homes, that are mere social clubs. Was the house a factor in their downfall from the Greek ideal?

Must the advantages of the house be only for those members who can or will afford to live more expensively than most students? It seems that the experienced chapters might here find a large opportunity of helping some of us who are facing these problems.

In the same connection comes another set of questions. Surely these have been met by some of our city chapters.

Are the advantages of the fraternity, is the fraternity's influence, is the individual's influence necessarily different with "inside" and "outside" girls? Let us have some suggestions for the erasure of this possible—yea even probable—division line.

The discussion of chapter reports and letters has brought to many of us, a realization of how much each chapter has to give, of how much each chapter has to gain by a more intimate and frank relation with sister chapters. Might not our journal, by establishing a question-box, add another to the many ties by which it binds the chapter links?

Perhaps I have given my suggestion an unfortunate cognomen. I do not mean a column where, "the editor will be pleased to answer all questions submitted by subscribers." I do mean to have the chapters send their *personal* problems—for, if we are all members of one body, personal problems become general problems—not to be editorially commented upon, but to furnish subjects for chapter genius which only needs a theme to become a helpful journal contributor.

Questions for Discussion.

Phi.

We often read chapter letters speaking of the perfect congeniality of the members and wonder if there is not a little exaggeration on the part of that much abused corresponding secretary.

That chapter is surely a model one in which no jealousy or anger, however unreasonable, is ever felt toward a sister. The girl who does not at some time feel just a little sore and badly used by her companions must possess either a good disposition or self-control to a remarkable degree. When we consider the different types that make up a chapter, no matter how perfect it may be, and the daily wear and tear of college life, both intellectual and social, we cannot but think clouds will sometimes rise on the fraternity sky.

Congeniality.

Even in the family, the closest relationship, we find misunderstandings and vexations. So ought we to hope that perfect unity can exist at all times in the fraternity? Without doubt the greatest difficulty we have to overcome is selfishness. We expect too much, exact more favors than are our due, and in consequence petty jealousies spring up.

Let us think about this and realize that it is the strong side that can afford to give up, to bear the burden that is not rightfully theirs but is forced upon them by the weakness of a sister from whom they have a right to expect strength. Added strength and sweetness of character is their reward but what of the one who lets her weakness rule her and refuses to profit by or even realize the unselfishness of her sisters?

Alpha Gamma.

CHAPTER LETTERS.

The date upon which the next chapter letter should be sent out is April 5.

Please write on one side only of the paper, and put the personals on separate sheet headed only by the name of the chapter. Any personal communication to the editor should also be written on a separate sheet.

Please note the way the chapter letters are headed and always arrange them in the same way, putting nothing at the head but the names of the chapter and the university.

Alpha District.

IOTA—CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

We Cornellians are always proudly remarking upon the natural beauties of our campus, and truly in the fresh green of spring or the frosty whiteness of winter, it is equally charming. But a February thaw! There are no words to express its dolefulness. We can hardly tear ourselves away from the all-absorbing topic of Ithaca weather and Ithaca mud to tell of things belonging strictly to Iota.

Our freshmen have already grown to be so much a part, and a necessary part of our chapter, that it seems a long time indeed since initiation. But it was only on January the eleventh that at Mrs. Nichols' home we welcomed to our chapter and to the fraternity the five freshmen of whom we told you in our last letter. Each one of us admits that the ceremony was even more beautiful and impressive than "my own initiation." Iota may sometime have had a more perfect initiation, but we of the later times have not seen it.

Alpha Phi has started a series of "At Homes," to be given in the drawing rooms of Sage Cottage, Wednesdays in February. Kappa Alpha Theta was fortunate in having a

card, and those of us who have already attended them have had a most delightful time in meeting and talking with the University girls.

Iota has issued invitations for a dance to be held in the Sage Gymnasium on the evening of February the twenty-first. Could this letter but be postponed a little while, we might tell you all about it. As it is, the good time is only a probability.

Miss Sayre and Miss Dunn of Kappa visited Mrs. Nichols a short time ago, and we were glad to have them again join us in chapter meeting. We were given another chance of meeting them at a tea which Mrs. Nichols gave in their honor.

Of the college interests and pleasures which come into our lives, of our work and our play—chief among which is the annual Junior Week just past,—I must not try to tell you, and of fraternity news I think I have told you all.

LAMBDA—UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

At last we have had our initiation and it was a grand success. On the first evening we drove seven miles to the home of one of our alumnae, and, believing that "a little nonsense, now and then, is relished by the best of men," we performed as many tricks on the poor freshmen as we thought advisable. After torturing the poor things for an hour or so, our sister, Mrs. Deyette, treated us to a most bounteous feast. The next evening we gave our happy four the power to wear, for the first time, our dear kite, and consequently can introduce to you the Misses Ferguson, Parker, Nelson and Marshall as loyal Thetas.

We have adopted a new kind of literary entertainment, one girl having the charge of each evening and she is responsible for the success of the affair. The first time we tried it the lives of the principal actors were discussed and anecdotes told of them.

The University is to try the honor system during the mid-

year examination. Each student is required to sign his name to a paper saying he has not given, received or used any assistance during the examination. The period lasts for two weeks and it is the most difficult time we have. Of course, we all hope that we shall not disgrace our fraternity by failing in any way. With best wishes to all our sisters from Lambda.

MU—ALLEGHENY COLLEGE.

As we are just back from vacation, there is not much of interest to write to you all.

We had our initiation last month. Our sweet little pledgling, Marian Neville Stark, who has been so anxious to put on the kite, now has the privilege of wearing our badge.

We have extended no new invitations this term, but are enjoying ourselves together. Four of us have chafing dishes, and what jolly good fun we have been having at our midnight spreads!

We are planning some improvements in our room. At the first of the term we bought a fine new piano, and we hope soon to make other additions to the room, although it is very cozy and pleasant now.

This year we are trying the plan of having different committees furnish entertainment for each regular meeting. So far the plan has been a success.

CHI—SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.

We introduce to our many sisters in the college world a new Theta pledgling, Miss Ida Hopkins, '01, in whom we already see the unfolding characteristics of a strong and helpful sister. We rejoice in extending our love to one who so deeply appreciates the trust placed in her.

At present our interests are largely taken up with a lecture to be given by Mr. Julian Hawthorne, on India, March 3rd, under the auspices of Kappa Alpha Theta. We appreciate our good fortune in securing this eminent author and lecturer,

and the enthusiasm already manifested by the public insures us great success in the undertaking. The Chancellor and Faculty of the University have given us their hearty support by offering to us the use of John Crouse Memorial Hall for the evening. At the close of the lecture a formal reception will be held to offer to all present an opportunity for meeting Mr. Hawthorne personally. A list of the patronesses, consisting of the wives of the Chancellor and Deans of the four colleges, together with many prominent literary and social ladies in the city, has been completed.

One of the most enjoyable occasions of the year was the donation party given us by our city parents and friends. When the appointed evening came the Lodge, at 720 Irving Avenue, presented a gay and cheerful aspect with its pretty decorations and its groups of expectant Thetas. The guests came, and with them such curious bundles of all dimensions. Investigation proved them to contain all kinds of useful articles, furniture, china, rugs, sofa pillows varied in designs and shapes, and such exquisite needle-work displayed in doilies and spreads of all sizes. It was truly a scene of much generosity on the one side, and grateful reciprocity on the other.

The Song Book Committee feel much encouraged at receiving over one hundred new songs, many of which will find their way into the new book.

We entertained Mrs. Angelia K. Davis, one of the Trustees of the University, at our Lodge during the Trustee's meeting in January. A few days after she left we received a beautiful Bohemian glass vase as a gift from her.

Pi Chapter of Psi Upsilon has issued invitations for their house-warming to be given at their new Chapter House, recently erected on College Place.

We miss from our midst the presence of two of our much-loved sisters. In November Mabel Ramsey was called to her home by the death of her sister and has not been able to return to us since. Millie Sarles is spending the remainder of the year with her family in St. Augustine, Florida.

ALPHA BETA—SWARTHMORE COLLEGE.

One month of ninety-eight has come and gone with its accompanying hard work—for its last week is our mid year examination week, but with an unusual number of festivities and pleasures, which Alpha Beta girls know full well how to enjoy.

A number of Theta girls living near Swarthmore have entertained our Grand President, since she has come to live in our midst. Luncheons have been given by Helen Hilborn, Swarthmore; Lydia P. Williams, Philadelphia; Bertha Lippincott, Riverton, New Jersey, and a dinner by Hannah H. Clothier, Wynnewood, Pa.

Just so sure as January the twenty-seventh rolls round with each succeeding year, just as certainly does that day find Alpha Beta's daughters gathered together for her annual banquet. This is *only* our second but we feel that it has already made itself a rule, which we sincerely hope may never have cause to be broken. Our banquet was held this year in Media Club House, Media, Pa., and the happiness and love which filled each heart there gathered, renewed our enthusiasm and awakened our fondest ideals for Kappa Alpha Theta. There were a number of alumnae with us including Caroline Sargent Walter, our Grand President, whose presence you may be sure afforded a great inspiration. Many original songs were sung and many toasts given both prepared and extemporaneous. Among the latter was one given by Ellen Williams Battin, in which she expressed the interest of our alumnae in the work of the active chapter, and in their name she presented to us a beautiful Kappa Alpha Theta banner. Very many happy memories of the day still linger with us. After the banquet was over notes were read from many of the alumnae, who were unable to be present, expressing their regret, and their best wishes for the chapter.

The annual Shakespeare Recital given by the Senior Class was held in College Hall, February 12th, our two senior

girls, Edith Lamb and Eva E. Foster taking part, reflecting by their earnest efforts, credit on our chapter.

On Sunday afternoon January the thirtieth, several of the alumnae who were staying with Caroline Walter, together with the active chapter spent a most enjoyable afternoon in her cosy, new home in Wallingford. Theta songs were sung around the open fire place, and many good wishes extended for the prosperity and happiness of the newly wedded couple.

Amid our pleasures and our work, very often our minds turn to our sister chapters, and at this the beginning of a new year, we wish you all a very prosperous and happy '98.

ALPHA DELTA—WOMAN'S COLLEGE OF BALTIMORE.

As initiation is over and we have now no pledglings, but fifteen full-fledged sisters, we have settled down to enjoy fraternity life in its fullest, truest sense. But already our circle is broken, for Jane Dobbins who left us on account of illness shortly before Christmas and expected to return after the holidays, will not be back this year.

On February fifth Alpha Delta will dine with Ethel Sharpe at her home in the city and will hold fraternity meeting there afterward. We are trying to make our meetings a judicious and happy mixture of the social and the literary, and we find it very interesting as well as beneficial to have an occasional informal discussion of current events. We were particularly pleased with the suggestion from our Mu sisters, that we "rush ourselves."

ALPHA EPSILON—BROWN UNIVERSITY.

We Theta girls at Brown have for a long time been most deeply interested in the questions of inter-fraternity action and of asking day, and so the last magazine was an especially rich one for us.

Until this term our chapter and the two local societies here enjoyed the advantages (for it truly had its advantages) of a compact which bound us against rushing or pledging until

the end of the freshman year. The one weak thing about it, however, and that which caused it to be broken, was the prohibition of rushing even in the slightest degree. However, we kept it faithfully for two years. Joint receptions to the entire freshman class took the place of rushing, and O, girls, it was so much nicer! But, as competition increased, the test proved it to be impracticable, and it was at last broken by one of the societies.

Then we who have always believed that our new girls should have the enjoyment of fraternity life for a part of the freshman year, tried to renew the agreement with regard to asking day only; and that to be fixed some time between January and April. But one society wanted no freshmen, the other wanted no compact, and so a controversy followed, but without satisfactory results. Even our noble President interested himself in it and exhorted us not to let the evils of rushing make their inroads into the Woman's College at Brown. And I think we are all trying to act upon his advice, though we are acting independently now, but still with the hope of some agreement concerning asking day for next year.

Last month we entertained the freshmen class. It was a successful and pretty little affair, during which we got better acquainted with the six girls whom we wanted and now they wear most proudly the black and gold. We are preparing for our initiation and banquet and wish that we might invite you all, dear sisters; at least you will all be here in our hearts.

Beta District.

ALPHA—DE PAUW UNIVERSITY.

After all that has been said about chapter letters, it is small wonder that we poor literary stars of limited horizon grasp our pens desperately in an attempt to tell our sisters in a half way interesting manner what we are doing. We have vowed to eschew all of the condemned limiting words

and, henceforth, if we are not able to describe events in new-coined, Theta-patented words, we are determined to preserve an adjectiveless silence. So, with a simplicity, suggestive of bare walls and carpetless floors, we would tell of a reception given in Indianapolis by Hattie Tutewiler, '97,—where Thetas served and Thetas attended, and gave the whole an atmosphere of De Pauw Thetaism. We've all read "Happy is that nation whose annals are brief" and, since our fraternities are truly worthy of the name, we plead the precious privilege of using one of the forbidden words and say that we are "happy" and that may possibly account for the dearth of news.

A few weeks ago Alpha gave a little farce at the close of a fraternity meeting, to which our alumnae were invited. We feel more closely bound to our alumnae now than ever and if any of you are so fortunate as to have chapters with you, we hope you appreciate them, as we do our alumnae and realize how much we owe them.

BETA—INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY.

Beta Chapter is experimenting with two new plans for entertaining her friends which may be of interest to some other chapter.

We observe the fourth Friday afternoon in each month as our day at home. On this day we are at home to the faculty women and our friends in the city. Chapters which have never tried this plan cannot realize what a pleasure it is to spend an afternoon with women whose interests are so entirely different from ours.

Our second plan is to receive informally the men of the college one evening in each month. Each girl invites not more than two men which makes us at home to about fifty. We make these parties decidedly informal and consequently they are delightful.

On Foundation Day, January 28th, the students of the University presented "Much Ado About Nothing." The

parts of Beatrice, Hero, and Ursula, were filled by three of our girls in a most creditable manner.

Kappa Kappa Gamma entertained Pi Beta Phi and Kappa Alpha Theta at their chapter house on the evening of February eighteenth. This is the first inter-fraternity gathering which we have had this year. We feel that such meetings as these do much toward breaking down the barriers of selfishness which are prone to creep into every college chapter, and we wish that we might have more of them.

DELTA—UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

With the beginning of ninety-eight we find ourselves back at work with several changes, although there were almost no new girls entering school this term.

We initiated Louise Beasley immediately after the holidays and are now mourning over the fact that we shall soon lose her, as she expects to go to Salt Lake City to live, in a month or two.

Josephine Green, one of the girls whom we initiated last fall is out of school this term on account of illness but we hope to have her with us again in the spring. A few of our girls were very pleasantly entertained at a reception given by the girls of Pi Beta Phi a few weeks ago. We are now busy planning for a large reception which we are to give February the third at the home of Mrs. John R. Trevett, one of our patronesses. During the afternoon and evening we will entertain more than four hundred people—members of the faculty, other fraternities and many of our Champaign friends.

This will be about the largest social affair we have ever undertaken, so we feel quite anxious that it should be a success. We have been much interested in composing our contributions towards the new song book but I sincerely hope that some of the chapters are of a more "poetical turn" than Delta.

EPSILON—WOOSTER UNIVERSITY.

At the beginning of the second term Miss Ruth Elliott, a younger sister of one of our most active members, entered Wooster University and it gives us pleasure to announce that she is now pledged to Kappa Alpha Theta, and we hope may prove to be as great a help to the chapter as her sister has been. While in Buchtel College she was asked by two other fraternities but fortunately for us did not accept either invitation. Two weeks ago we once more donned the black and gold, this time for Fay Blayney, whom I may best describe by quoting from Mrs. Embury,

“A gentle maiden, who's large, loving eyes
Enshrine a tender, melancholy light,
Like the soft radiance of the starry skies,
Or autumn sunshine, mellowed when most bright;
She is not sad, yet in her gaze appears
Something that makes the gazer think of tears.”

It will not be long before these pledglings will be the old fraternity girls. It is astonishing how rapidly “tempus fugits.” When we enter college as poor, little green Freshmen, we gaze with awe at those all-knowing Seniors and wonder if it will ever be our privilege to wear caps and gowns and to look down upon the Freshmen with that patronizing air. We study, we worry, sometimes we fail, but only to redouble our efforts, especially at examination time, then almost before we realize it we are Sophomores. O, the glory of being a Sophomore! What matters it if we are the target for the ridicule of all other classes? But soon, all too soon, these blissful days are gone.

We are Juniors. We must work harder for there is so much to learn and so little time in which to do it.

Another year passes by, can it be that we are Seniors? Have we really reached that long coveted goal?

Why it seems but yesterday that we were sitting in the Freshman row in chapel and thinking of the time, far, far

in the dim future, when we would be standing on that gaily decorated platform giving our commencement orations. What a bright picture we then made of it, the flowers, the white, airy dresses, and the singing within, the green trees and grass, the deep blue sky, and the sunshine without. Now that picture has faded from before our eyes, another has taken its place. We see our classmates and fraternity sisters saying goodbye. Surely there are tears in their eyes. We see them cast one last fond look at their dear Alma Mater, who has so often shielded them from the storms and tempests without. Our hearts are filled with sadness and we try to put this picture away from us by thinking of how happy our mothers will be to have us at home once more, or the grand work we have to do in the world and we remember that these merry college days are but a preparation for the life before us and we go forth from college with hearts full of thankfulness that it has been our privilege to attend college and to belong to a circle of loving girl friends.

ETA—UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

It is with fear and trembling that the luckless correspondent takes up her pen. What will be the verdict this time?

We should like to tell you a little bit about the conditions surrounding us here at Ann Arbor. In the first place, there are, as you may already know, over three thousand students in the University, about seven hundred of whom are women, scattered through all the departments except the engineering. Much is done for the convenience and comfort of the women students. We have a very efficient Woman's Dean, in Dr. Eliza M. Mosher. Besides a little reading room in the main hall we have a \$50,000 gymnasium, which though not yet quite completed, is used a great deal. Here the girls give afternoon teas once a month and the different sororities take turns in managing them. Here too we have evening dancing parties for all the college women, and penny socials which the men also attend. We have here an organization

to which all the college girls and many ladies belong, for the payment of the annual fee, 25 cents. This Women's League was formed here many years ago by Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, and its object is to give to all the college women equal social opportunities. It has accomplished much good in this line.

There are seven sororities here, six of them the national sororities and the other a local organization called collegiate sorosis. Of these seven, the two largest frown upon any attempt to establish a mutual Asking Day, and one of them absolutely refuses to enter into such an agreement. The rushing here is frightful. It is almost all done within two or at most three weeks. Bids are often given on the strength of a few days acquaintance from the fact that some rival is striving for the same prize. Sometimes even, under-handed methods are used to prevent the freshmen from keeping engagements with others. We Thetas feel that nothing is more needed than a Pan-Hellenic League; but what can we do? We do not rush any harder than is absolutely necessary, but beyond that we can do nothing towards abolishing the present rushing system.

Since "enthusiastic", "happy", "delighted", "glad", etc., are forbidden words, how can we express our joy over our new pledgling, Mabel Davidson of Joliette, Ill? We can only leave it to you to imagine for yourselves.

Now that the troublesome question of songs has been settled for us by our freshmen, we are eagerly waiting for the new song book; for one of our greatest pleasures is our singing on Saturday nights after our business meetings are over, or on Sunday afternoons.

The semester examinations come next week so we are all very busy now; but we have no fear for our girls are all good students. Now sisters all—farewell, with loving greetings from Eta.

KAPPA—UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

The strain of the mid-year examinations is just over, and Kappa Alpha Theta has returned with full force to her fraternity interests and her Saturday meetings.

Our new members, Erna Barteldes, Edna Williams, May Sexton, and Lou Havens, already take an active part in Theta workings, and anticipate with great interest the initiation on February nineteenth, when Agnes Lee, Daisy Dixon and Louise Fangor—the last of our pledge girls—will become full fledged sisters.

The fraternity has been most unfortunate, in the loss of one of her seniors, Grace Poff, on account of the serious illness of her brother, has had to discontinue all University work.

Our big party on the eleventh, was a decided success, not only because it offered an opportunity for Kappa to entertain all her friends, but because it brought in many of the out of town girls and united for a short time the active chapter and the alumnae.

NU—HANOVER COLLEGE.

During the winter term, when nature seems wrapt in calm sleep, everything is propitious to hard work and the Thetas have utilized the time for study. Already we feel amply rewarded for our diligence, for, though it may sound boastful, we are proud of what our girls are doing, especially our younger ones.

But lately our thoughts have wandered from the daily intercourse with musty classics, from the intricacies of Pythagora's doctrines, from the mysteries of science, and the learned depths of Psychology and Logic to something more agreeable. On February 14 we gave a "Valentine Party" at the home of Prof. Young. Everything was in keeping with the night and hearts were displayed everywhere. The invitations were on heart-shaped cards, daintily decorated by our artistic member, and were written in rhyme. This

awakened the poetical genius and, with two or three exceptions, the answers were original poems. The first difficulty which presented itself when we began to plan for our party was whom we should invite, or, rather, whom we could leave from the list, for Theta girls are invited to everything, and especially the receptions given by the men's fraternities. We finally decided to invite all the fraternity men of the Senior class, and two of each fraternity in the Junior class, and our invitations were confined to these two classes.

The most amusing feature of the evening was writing original valentines. Large card-board hearts, with gold pencils attached with black and gold ribbons, were given to the guests, and some time was given for thinking. A prize was given for the most original valentine, and a booby prize was awarded to the unpoetical writer.

In the parlor, behind pictures, in the draperies, and all unexpected places, small hearts were hidden to which black and gold ribbons were tied—black for the ladies and gold for the gentlemen. Sentimental quotations were written on these, half on one and half on the corresponding heart. These were to be matched for partners for supper. The hearts were all gory and were in all stages of injury, from a slight fracture to a horrible gaping, bleeding wound, caused by Cupid's darts.

After a dainty supper, served by six little girls, Theta songs were sung, and all felt that the first party given by Kappa Alpha Theta this year was in every way an event to be remembered. Glendora Ramsey, '93; Pauline Ernst, '96, and Virginia Overton, '96, were with us that evening.

PI—ALBION COLLEGE.

During the weeks which have passed since last our sisters heard from us the Pi girls have not been idle. Slowly but surely our lodge is becoming a "place of beauty and a joy forever." For while our tongues are busily chatting, our fingers are also at work edging our pretty fish-net curtains

with lace, or making dainty sofa-pillows and other things to beautify our home. And truly, no bride ever took greater pleasure in settling her new home than we have in making pretty things for this new lodge.

We are continually reminded of our numerous friends by the tokens of love which are sent to us at nearly every fraternity meeting. A short time ago our preceptress, Professor Bancroft, presented us with a very pretty table and spread.

We had hoped to give our opening this month, but owing to the college revivals, which are to continue throughout the entire month, we have been obliged to postpone it. We are now planning to give it the 1st of March.

As yet we have confined the spreads and entertainments in our lodge to our own members, but after the dedication we shall extend our hospitality and share our joys with our friends.

A few items of college news might be of interest to our sisters. Last month Albion won in the annual debate with the State Normal College. Spirit was at its height, and both before and after the debate the air was full of shouts and yells for "Old Albion."

On the evening of January twenty-first the Faculty gave a reception at the residence of Professor Dickie in honor of our new President, Dr. J. P. Ashley, and his wife. Although a thousand invitations were issued, yet owing to the wise management everything passed off very nicely.

On February twenty-third is to occur the inauguration of President Ashley. Elaborate preparations are being made, and all things point to a most prosperous future for Albion College.

Pi sends greetings to all Thetas.

RHO—UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

The last two months have found the Thetas at Rho settled down to prosaic college life. After the excitement of the fall rushing with its anxieties and pleasures, work has been attractive. We have been devoting ourselves to earnest

study indulging only in quiet rushing with few chances of social joys and merriment. We have congratulated ourselves when we have numbered our five new girls whom Theta is proud to own. Through our fraternity meeting we have been realizing the real meaning of the fraternity and indulging in the joys peculiar to fraternity life. We have found chapter meetings profitable and interesting and are discovering in our new members inspiration and strength.

Now that we have passed safely through the dreaded mid-years, and with the arrival of the second semester and the few new students we are again on the watch for interesting girls. We wish to make known to our sisters two new conquests who will be an honor to the fraternity. Winifred Hill who matriculated the second semester, and Jessie Macfarland were pledged February fourth and before this letter appears Winifred will wear the kite. Rho thinks she has reason to be thankful for her many successes this year and hopes to find great zeal and activity in her large numbers.

During the holidays we again had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Packard of Beta who came from Chicago to take part in the Philharmonic Concert. In her honor, a chafing dish party was given at the home of Miss Latta.

Rho was honored at the preliminary announcement of Phi Beta Kappa honors by the election of Edith Gertrude Schwartz. Her standing ranked her among the first five in a class of one hundred and fifty. These five, the Professor said, had attained nearly absolute perfection. Rho has but two seniors this year. This adds one more to our list of Phi Beta Kappas.

Charlotte Clark has recently taken up studies at the University.

The great event of the month has been the Pershing Rifle Hop at the Lincoln Hotel. Many Thetas were among the favored ones.

In the last magazine there was still another article on "those chapter letters." It is to be feared that if our friends do not soon turn their interest in some other direction these articles on the letters will become as worn out and lame as the poor letters themselves. This last one tells us to be "distinctive and individual," in other words, "be original," advice that has been advanced in case of each of the preceding articles. Yet we do not agree with our sister from Kappa chapter when she says, "we are as much alike as the proverbial peas, for in reading over the letters, we find that there are but five out of the twenty-one, that do not describe some tea, reception, party, spread, or at least say, "we were entertained by Mrs. So and So 'most charmingly' or in a most 'delightful' way."

After the eloquent plea from our Kappa sister, for the observance of the "property rights" of certain adjectives, we feel great hesitancy in inserting into this letter a topic we had planned to discuss. Not that it has to do with the adjectives for it covers a much broader field, but we find there has been a repetition of this same subject in almost every chapter letter. However we intend to venture it, with the plea that "what is everybody's property is nobody's property" and we may be able to introduce some new and startling features.

To begin with, an apology to Kappa chapter is first necessary. She has mentioned the eleventh of February for her "big annual" and we ask her pardon for seeming to steal her "rights" to that date. Without knowing of our sister chapters intentions, we have also planned for our annual *Valse Reception* on the same evening. There will be a rather original feature connected with Tau's reception, however. We begin at 6:30 p.m., serve a supper at eight and close at eleven o'clock, thus following out the old adage "Early to bed and early to rise," etc. Doubtless we are like others of our sister chapters in adopting the plan of in-

viting three or four of the most popular girls from the other sororities. Our first trial of anything of this kind was last year, and it proved so successful then, that we are going to attempt it again this season.

But the topic that has been of all absorbing interest to Tau chapter and to the college world in Northwestern this term, has, like the frosting on the small boy's cake, been saved for the last. All of us who have been through at least one campaign season know it to be often harder to win the consent of the parent than that of the candidate herself. This opposition, which we have to overcome, is based occasionally on curious misconceptions of the real object and work of a college sorority. Each chapter probably can recall many illustrations of this fact. Tau chapter, however, in the future may be compelled to answer an argument, hitherto unadvanced by any cautious mother.

There is a story told of a brusque old teacher in one of the eastern schools, which throws some light on Theta's new problem. This good man conducts classes in his own Alma Mater and also in the neighboring 'sister college' across the river, and that he may the better instruct his pupils, he is wont to take them on field expeditions to the points of geological interest, in which the locality abounds. It is told that one day the boldest of his youths spoke feelingly of the extra labor involved in covering the territory twice every year—once with the young women—once with the young men—and suggested that for the field work, the divisions be united—to every one's mutual advantage. The professor looked over his glasses and remarked, "I'm engaged to teach—not to run a matrimonial bureau." In inserting in our chapter letter word of the loss, by marriage, of two girls from our upper delegation, (Ruth Ann Gould and Alice Blodgett) we put on record, two events which came to most of us in Northwestern as surprises. Our regret at their departure is mingled with wishes for their best happiness in their new relations in life.

And this is why the absorbing question in our college circle is: what Theta will be the next to go? But the problem

before Tau herself is a vital one. At the present ratio, the chapter will be sadly depleted ere next June—and the girls are wondering whether the standard of womanhood required of the prospective initiate, be not too high—and how they will meet next fall, the queries of anxious mothers.

UPSILON—UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

Upsilon, tormented by a guilty conscience, has been rack-ing her brains for some words that will take the place of "happy" and "enthusiastic." Ordinarily we should say that we have been having many happy times together, and that we are filled with enthusiasm for Theta's cause. But, alas, we must try to tell it some other way.

After our dancing party at the west, where we had such a ha—, here we all pause and look at each other with "blue-white faces all tryin' hard to grin:" the death-like stillness is broken by an audacious fresh-man saying scrumptious; then jolly, gay, glorious, swell and even swagger is heard. But the stern and learned seniors frown, it is hard for them not to be happy and enthusiastic; however, at last we gain their reluctant consent to say "real good time."

Well, we've had several "real good times" since then. Our New Year's reception at Lillian Dodson's, and two receptions given by the Alumnae; one, at the home of the Misses Curran and Breed of St. Paul and the other at the home of Mrs. Burch (*née* Harriet Jackson) of Minneapolis.

We are all anxiously waiting to welcome the new Song Book since our effort to furnish material for it has stimulated our inclination to sing, and no meeting seems complete without the singing of Theta songs.

PSI—UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

Since the last letter we have all been home to spend the holidays, but as is always the case with Theta girls it was pleasant to come together again for work.

On January 12th we pledged Mary Helen Cross, a freshman who is now making her home in Madison. On January

21st we initiated her and now we are truly proud to introduce our new sister to you all. The next night the whole chapter attended the military hop, the third of the school year.

There are but two subjects now of interest to the college mind—exams and the Junior Promenade. On the 18th is the Prom, a number of the girls are going. Next week come the examinations, and then we start at once on our second semester's work.

The women of U. W. are striving to come closer together. Under the direction of the new dean of women, Miss Emery a graduate of Wellesly, we have formed an Association for Self Government. As yet little has been done, we have formed our rules and been getting into running order. Soon after Christmas an art exhibit was given under the auspices of the Association and it was a great success.

ALPHA GAMMA—OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

The first semester at O. S. U. has just ended and the much dreaded final examinations have been taken, and passed, we hope. So Alpha Gamma begins a new semester prepared for much study and many gay times. This month the annual Hop will be given by the Juniors to the Seniors and there will be many more parties and dances for the winter months are the gayest at O. S. U. A short time before the holidays Alpha Gamma entertained her friends with an informal dancing party at the home of Lois Dann. Helen Powell entertained during the holidays for Katherine Kiser who is principal of the High School, Chicago Junction, O. and Josephine Barnaby, who is teaching at Warren, O.

Those of us who had never met our Grand President Caroline Sargent-Walter were delighted to make her acquaintance. She stopped in Columbus for a short time on her way East.

Edith Hunter, one of Alpha Gamma's most energetic girls has been obliged to leave college on account of ill health.

The engagement of Vera Inez Luse and Mr. Wm. G. Price is announced.

Alpha Gamma sends love and best wishes to all the dear sisters in Theta.

Gamma District.

PHI—STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

On the 27th of January, as you all know, Kappa Alpha Theta had her 28th birthday. We of Phi celebrated the anniversary by all appearing with the colors, and were met on all sides by rampant curiosity demanding, What was the matter! Was it a new organization, a Women's "Sigma Sigma," or was it merely Chinese New Year? It really was great fun for all of us, though we had had no idea of what was going to happen when we issued forth that morning from the Chapter House with our loyal little bows on our coats.

Speaking of the Chapter House, it is in an unusually good condition this year: so full that one of the girls now sleeps in the library! The business management is entirely in the hands of one of the girls, for whom we have a most appropriate nick-name—but I fear it would not look well in print. But she is an excellent manager, capable and shrewd, and we vote her a wonderful success, even if we do make fun of her.

We do not all live in the house, but those of us who do have formed a Reading League. Half an hour after dinner every evening we plan to read aloud. We endeavor not to let library-work or other conscience-pricks deter us, for we have been repeatedly told by our hygienic members that such organizations as our League are an aid to digestion.

After our last chapter letter was sent, we discovered what our dear Freshmen meant by having all those secret meetings. They gave us for Christmas a very, very beautiful cut-glass rose-bowl. We forgave them on the spot.

In December we sent out several hundred invitations for Chapter "At Homes," for the last Saturday of every month. We have had two of them so far, and feel encouraged over their success. People of all kinds come, friends, Faculty,

and students, and by this means we hope to establish as broad a social influence as possible,—one phase of our Fraternity ideal which seems sometimes so hard not to neglect.

With love to all.

OMEGA—UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

While some of our sisters are surrounded by snow and ice in the Eastern states, we in California have had blue skies with little or no rain so far, and reports are coming in from all sides that the farmers are in despair because, unless rain comes soon, the crops will fail. This dismal prospect has not materially affected the incoming and return of students to college, for our class rooms are filled to overflowing, and all student interests, both with respect to college work and college sports, are inspired with enthusiasm. One fact over which we are rejoicing is the engagement of a famous Princeton athlete as baseball and football coach for the season of 1898.

On January twenty-fourth there is to be a Golden Jubilee in San Francisco in celebration of the discovery of gold in California in 1848. The two battalions of University Cadets have been requested to show their loyalty to the State by joining in the parade in the morning and have consented to do so. It is expected that the celebration will be a great occasion in the history of San Francisco, showing what a contrast there is between San Francisco fifty years ago and San Francisco of to-day.

The call for songs for the Theta song book has aroused much interest among the girls, and our amateur musicians have been making desperate efforts to chain the Muse of poetry and song to give expression to their affection for Kappa Alpha Theta.

We are looking forward to another initiation soon, for we have one more Freshman pledged and a further acquaintance may increase the number. We are very fortunate in having Fanny Stone's mother with us at the House this term and four of the girls.

Omega sends her faithful love to all her sisters.

PERSONALS.

ALPHA.

Mary Ritter, '97, has accepted a position as assistant teacher in the Greencastle High School.

Carrie Reeves, '96, spent a few days in Greencastle last week visiting friends.

Hattie Tutewiler, '97, has just returned to her home in Indianapolis.

Helen Lockwood, '00, of Peru, has been visiting Theta friends in Greencastle the past week.

Jessie Hogate, of Mu, Allegheny College, has been at the home of Berenice Smith, '99, Alpha, the past few days.

Ethel Arnold, '97, is teaching in Covington, Ind.

BETA.

Mary Ardery, of Greensburg, spent a week in January with us.

Jotilda Conklin, of '97, is studying in Paris.

Jean Wylie and Mr. Harry Axtell, Sigma Xi, were married January 19th.

Katherine Van Dusen, of New Albany, will spend a month with us during the spring term. She is to illustrate the College Annual.

ETA.

Miss Maud Phillips is enjoying a pleasant year at Manzanita, Los Angeles County, Cal. We are delighted to hear of a possibility of her return here next year.

KAPPA.

Clara Lynn came up from Kansas City for the fraternity party.

Edith Davis, '97, Topeka, visited the chapter in January.

Mary Monroe has left for Washington D. C., to visit Mrs. Senator Harris.

Mrs. Waterman Stone has announced the engagement of her daughter Elizabeth, to Mr. Arthur T. Walker.

Annie Wilder, Kansas City, spent several days with Louise Towne.

Jane Thomas, one of last fall's initiates has left the University and is at her home in Emporia.

LAMBDA.

Adelaide Marshall, 1901, has been very ill with typhoid fever but is rapidly recovering.

MU.

Anna Campbell, '98, is at her home in Kane, Pa., this term, but will return in the spring to receive her degree.

Marian Neville Stark, who was ill last term, is again with us.

Clara Campbell, '95, on account of ill health, has had to resign her position as assistant editor of the Chautauquan.

NU.

Virginia Southgate, '92, is in Chicago this winter.

Bertye Swope, '93, was with us a few days in January.

Virginia Overton, '96, made a flying visit to her Alma Mater in February.

The announcement of the wedding of Miss Victoria Arbuckle, '89, to Mr. George C. Burness of San Francisco, Cal., was received some time ago. Mr. Burness is a San Francisco business man, and they will make that city their home.

UPSILON.

Georgia Everest, '00, has been compelled to leave college on account of sickness in the family. We sincerely hope that she will be back next term.

PHI.

Helen Vinyard, ex-'98, who has been teaching for over two years in Los Angeles, has returned to college.

Ruth Spilman, ex-'01, is teaching this term in the Sacramento High School.

Alice Carey, ex-'00, was married at Pittsburg, on January 5th to Mr. Clifford Cross.

CHI.

Born, January 11, to Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lewis (*née* Lou Graff), a son.

Miss Jessie Manis, '96, visited the chapter in January.

Miss Eva Miller, ex-'97, visited the chapter in February.

Miss Maude Sloan, ex-'99, visited the chapter in February.

ALPHA GAMMA.

Anna Williams, 99, is attending Oberlin this year.

Mrs. Kingsbury, Tau, is in Columbus this winter.

Mrs. Herbert Scott (*née* Clara Luse), of Alexandria, visited her parents during the month of January.

Helen Paterson, of Mt. Vernon, visited us in November.

We were pleased to know Myra Post, who was the guest of Winifred Crane.

We announce our first Theta baby, Mary Louise, daughter of Mrs. Lillian Krumon Wilson.

IOTA CHAPTER.

In Memoriam.

LUCY SIBLEY MCGLAUFLIN, '83,

Died at her home in
Atlanta, Georgia, Sept.
19th, 1897.

EDITORIALS.

The song book committee reports progress, or rather results, in this issue, and so far these results seem to have struck a golden mean between perfect success and failure. Chi does not seem to be wholly satisfied. She gives us the figures and says that she wants ten more good songs at once. The chapters should answer this call without delay and with less work for themselves than the first call involved. There are few of us who do not acknowledge that second thoughts are best, and say of work done under compulsion and a time limit,—“If I had only had more time how I could have improved upon that”. The inspiration always seems to follow the opportunity at a safe distance. But in this case the opportunity is obligingly elastic and the inspiration of the second thought has still time to get in its good work. Do not let us allow Chi to call in vain for her additional songs and then in the years that will pass before we have another edition regret in vain that Theta's song book does not truly represent the best talent of the fraternity.

We welcome our new alumnae chapter at Burlington which was organized early in February under the name of Eta alumnae. Their president is Mrs. Belle C. Gates, one of the editors of the Kappa Alpha Theta when Lambda was the editing chapter. Our sisters at Burlington are strong in number and loyalty to the fraternity and we confidently expect of Eta that she will not be behind her sister alumnae chapters in energetic work and life. If this were the first time that an alumnae chapter had been formed in the same town with the active chapter it might have been questioned whether the active chapter might not suffer from the withdrawal of interest on the part of its alumnae. But in every case the active chapter reports only fresh interest and help

from their new relations with their alumnae. The fact of their organization seems to be of mutual advantage and so far as the actual work of the chapter is concerned nothing is lost because the only part that the alumnae can take in the life of the active chapter is that of guide, counselor and friend to the younger sisters when occasion may require. This is not a small part but its limits are easily drawn and well defined. The real work and responsibility must necessarily rest with the active membership. If, it were not so one of the first aims of the fraternity would be defeated.

The college girl does not confine herself to the alumnae chapter by any means, we find her in all the various clubs that women form and join. Not always for the same reason that has led her sister who has not had a college education to join, but because she knows the power of organization and feels the necessity for it in any serious work. Perfect organization and concerted work can accomplish every thing. As a fraternity we will probably never reach a point where we will be absolutely satisfied with our organization, and it is better for us that we should not, but it would simplify matters greatly and make it an easy matter to find the weak spots and their remedy if we made the best use possible of our organization as it is and lived up to it conscientiously to its last detail. Probably any one who has held an official position in the fraternity, certainly any one who has been on the editorial board of any of our publications will confidently affirm that lack of attention to detail is the root of all evil.

Will any one who knows the correct addresses of the following names please send them to the editor. The last known addresses are given: Mrs. Kate Barrows Brace, Watkins, N. Y., Mrs. Georgia Everett Mead, Brewster, N. Y., Mrs. J. T. Ewing, 582 Throop Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

EXCHANGES.

In the *Trident* for January some interesting westerner compared college life in Colorado and in Boston, with refreshing enthusiasm over the freedom and inspiration offered by the surroundings of the former and the conventional dignity and culture which characterize the latter.

One can hardly censure the writer for feeling that historic Boston with its symphony concerts and its many evidences of culture could only be ideal under the inspiring greatness of Pike's Peak, and the exhilarating mountain air of the wild west.

We quote the following paragraph :

I have said Colorado students are intense in their feelings and enthusiasm. They are also, it must be confessed, occasionally foolish in their display of enthusiasm, for they are more impulsive and excitable than eastern students. And yet, in matters of real importance, the student body may almost always be trusted not to lose its head or its temper. Somehow, the world about, with its glorious mountains and its great expanses of room, proves to be an excellent and powerful restraining influence to keep the students from ignoble thoughts and deeds. One almost cannot do petty and mean things with Pike's Peak before one, and Colorado sunshine all about one.

But if student life in Colorado is eager and enthusiastic, and occasionally rashly impulsive, it is equally true that it lays hold of the deepest realities of life and work, with a devotion that is, perhaps not greater than in Boston institutions, but certainly as great, and more in evidence. The students there are, physically, a mile nearer the heaven than we are here; and I'm not sure that they are not spiritually nearer the vital truths of life.

There is a strong undertone of deep spirituality in all the college life that makes one feel that college is not a place for fun, nor even primarily for study; but rather it is a place for all-round preparation for usefulness in life. Colorado college students are impressed with the fact that they are

being trained to be leaders—leaders in moulding the life of the great new west ; where, as yet, there is little tradition and convention, little “sotness” to be overcome ; and where life has not settled down into ruts. With such an ideal of leadership before its students, is it to be wondered at that the Colorado college life is one filled with earnestness, with abounding life, with noble purpose? A free, wholesome, busy life?

One difference between Boston college students and Colorado college students, that has struck me forcibly is this: The Boston student has a certain finish and refinement of bearing that the western student too often lacks. It cannot be said exactly that the western college man or woman lacks in culture ; but only in a sort of poise and balance, a certain reserve and dignity, that made one of the chief charms of the Boston student. The westerner does not lack in courtesy and chivalry ; but he is often, I fear, only bored by certain conventionalities to which he should conform, and by which he would be improved.

The *Trident* has started with the January number a new department under the suggestive name of the *Olio*, for which contributions are solicited from the members under the head of questions, discussions and criticisms. The aim of this new department is to make the *Trident* the fraternity's expression, not the expressson of the editor.

The *Alpha Phi Quarterly* for November tells of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of Alpha Phi. The *Quarterly* will henceforth be edited by Alpha chapter at Syracuse. We quote the following from the editorials :

In the stern intellectual atmosphere of a university, considered often in the abstract as merely a mental force by the college professor, forced to independence of thought and a certain intellectually aggressive attitude towards those about her, the college girl while gaining so much that is necessary to true development, is in danger of losing much that is distinctively feminine and lovely in her character—that indefinable something elusive to analysis, that aggregation of loveable qualities : simplicity, unconsciousness and courteous sweetness,—which are a woman's greatest charm and noblest possession. A one-sided development in the spiritual as well as in the physical world is a deformity ; symmetry should be a woman's constant aim. The intel-

lectual woman cannot afford to lose one of these essentially feminine qualities; the loss would cripple her own power and influence. With the calm poise of self-knowledge and assurance, should come the breadth of view, which breeds tolerance and kindly, lenient judgment—the thoughtfulness of “the larger heart, the kindlier hand.” The fraternity casts about its members just such refining and ennobling influences, and while scholarship is required and emphasized, yet character, the only enduring foundation for the superstructure of culture and broad attainment, is held of supreme importance.

The first article in the January *Anchora* is one on The Tea as a Factor in College Life. From it the following paragraphs are quoted which may be of some help to those of us who are inclined to leave social duties and pleasures to the society girl.

The fact that most women study with a view to entering a profession or engaging in work of some kind leads them to bend all their energies in that direction, feeling that, since the other sphere of life will not fall to their lot, they may leave it almost entirely to the society girl. This is, indeed, a mistake if their ideal of womanhood is to be the highest type. The womanly instinct of social grace lies deep down in the heart of every woman and no one of us has a right to cultivate the other sides of her nature to the exclusion, even the extinction of this, because there is no influence so strong, so far-reaching and so absolutely essential to the world's well-being as that of a true-hearted, womanly woman.

In college the solution of this difficulty lies mainly with the fraternities. It is their acknowledged aim to foster noble womanhood, and it should not be forgotten that the only way the world has of estimating fraternity standards, is by the women whom they send out from their ranks. That we are beginning to accept the term “Greek ideal” in a very modern and restricted sense, is to be greatly feared and guarded against. Let us therefore make every effort to go back as near as possible to the original meaning of the term in all its beauty and significance. Let us strive for more true Hellenism, more “sweetness and light”.

It is very easy for one who has a passion or maybe only a habit of grinding to resign social pleasures one by one until it becomes a positive bore to attend the mildest social function.

The difficulty then lies in breaking up this habit of neglect and in cultivating that "all-roundness" which should be an unfailing characteristic of college women.

In discussing the question as to whether the alumni or the undergraduates should grant and withdraw charters an alumnus expresses the following views in the Beta Theta Pi for February :

The writer believes that, in the fraternities which are to be our greatest rivals fifteen or twenty years hence, this whole matter will be left entirely in the hands of a few alumni who shall have made a study of it, and who have been watching the growth of educational institutions, not for days and months, but for years, and who are thoroughly well informed on all points necessary to form a cool judgment.

In other words, it appears to me that, as at the university referred to at the beginning of this article, the students proved themselves utterly incompetent to judge any question in which their prejudices or passions were involved, so in our fraternity the undergraduates have proved themselves unfit and incompetent to judge questions relating to the granting and withdrawal of charters. They are influenced, not by questions of fraternity policy, or of the facts relating to any particular case, but solely by whims, prejudices, ignorant prejudices, and many other considerations, entirely irrelevant to the real question at issue, which always is, What course is to be pursued for the best interests of the fraternity?

The *Scroll* of Phi Delta Theta for February contains a beautifully illustrated article on Chapter Houses in Southern Colleges, and a review of the college annuals published by the more important of our American colleges.

No doubt, all *true* Thetas will heartily agree with the sentiment expressed in the last sentence of the rather startling paragraph from the editorial column below quoted :

The Phis in Georgia are accustomed to call themselves 'Thetas,' and members of the Fraternity elsewhere have wondered what was the reason for the habit. The Fraternity has never sanctioned the use of the last letter in its name to designate its members. There are three other fraternities whose names begin with Phi--Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Kappa Sigma. Members of the first mentioned, when not described as 'Fijis,' are called Deltas, which is the term used in the literature of the fraternity.

Phi Delta Theta, however, uses the first instead of the third letter for this purpose, and our convention of 1882 declared that Phi Delta Theta should be pronounced 'Phy Delta Thayta,' and members should be called Phis, pronounced 'Phys.' Phi Kappa Psi, another fraternity whose name begins with Phi, calls its members Phi Psis, so no confusion is caused by members of Phi Delta Theta calling themselves Phis simply. Members of Phi Kappa Sigma are known by their full name, as Phi Kaps or as 'Skulls,' from their emblem. The habit of Georgia Phis in styling themselves 'Thetas' seems to have originated at Mercer, and the reason probably was the existence of a Phi Delta literary society there. It is noticeable, also, that there is a Phi Kappa literary society at the University of Georgia and a Phi Gamma literary society at Emory. Literary societies form a large element in college life in the south, but no misunderstandings would arise from Phis calling themselves Phis, because the members of the literary societies at Mercer, for instance, call themselves Phi Deltas. The Georgians should break off this habit of dubbing themselves 'Thetas,' for in regard to nomenclature, as well as other general fraternity observances, it is desirable for custom to be uniform and universal.

NOTES AND CLIPPINGS.

At Dartmouth College all chapters postpone rushing till the last of October. This year, October 25th was rushing day. Psi Upsilon and Phi Delta Theta swung the largest delegation, Psi Upsilon taking fourteen freshmen, and Phi Delta Theta fourteen freshmen and two sophomores.

The alumni of the Pennsylvania chapter of Phi Delta Theta, most of whom reside in Philadelphia, are going to build a club house and chapter house combined, to be situated near the U. of Pa. campus. The house is to cost \$40,000 and work is to begin in the Spring. This will be the first house of its kind.

And now that the freshman is initiated, what are you going to do with him and what is he going to do? He will do nothing and he will be nothing unless you give him opportunities and direction. Put one freshman on every committee at once, making your appointments in accordance with individual fitness. One man is a born rusher; let the membership committee use him in landing more freshmen. One has a good business head; make him the treasurer's agent and confidential secretary. One is enamored of facts and figures; let the historian give him all encouragement in his power, and the reporter make use of him in need. Another has the rare combination of qualities which makes a man prompt, tactful and enthusiastic, able to write well without becoming either conventional or bombastic—a man who knows an item of important news when he hears it, knows how to tell it and how to use it. Let the reporter look after this man; let him become correspondent for some local or home newspaper; let him write a chapter letter once or twice when the reporter is busy, but not too busy to look over the letter and make suggestions and corrections. Then, next year, or year after, make this man your reporter. The freshmen want to work; encourage them to try for class teams and the musical clubs, help them to prepare their debates and essays and orations—and give every one of them some fraternity work to do.—*Phi Delta Theta Scroll*.

Are chapter swings advisable? Perhaps it is best before we attempt to answer this question to explain just what we mean by a chapter swing.

By this we mean a preliminary initiation, which is of the chapter alone and entirely separate and distinct from the fraternity initiation. The character of such an affair would be frivolous and it would be, in intention, more or less of a farce.

There are forcible arguments on either side of the question. First we will consider a few points in favor. The freshman need some experience to make them congenial with the other members of the chapter. Many jests are made at the expense of freshmen, and yet underneath the jest there lies considerable truth when one speaks of the "freshness" of the youngest class in our American colleges. This "freshness" may be due to timidity, bashfulness, ignorance, or conceit, but from whatever source it arises, it may well be dispensed with, and the average fraternity girl has no desire to retain it. Here it is, then, that the chapter swing is useful. Its devices are like grains of salt thrown in to season and make palatable the younger members. Sometimes a small pinch is needed—again a larger amount will not be disagreeable. However, the amount must be governed by the disposition of the initiate.

By this process the members may become acquainted with their pledgling as in no other way. The disposition will show itself plainly, and the members know what to expect of each initiate.

Again it has been said, "The freshman expects something of this sort and is disappointed if she does not receive it," but is it not a question how far our acts should be governed by the expectation of the freshmen? And if they do not receive this do they not receive what is much better?

Lastly, such an initiation forms a relation between upper and lower classmen which cannot be gained through the regular initiation. There the girls are not sisters; nor are they equals, for they have not yet entered upon the fraternity life nor taken its vows.

But the arguments are also strong on the other side. The affair is frivolous, and there is some danger of carrying frivolity too far. What is intended as nonsense may become unkind, and wound rather than heal.

In knocking off the corners there is sometimes danger of injuring the model.—*K. K. G. Key.*